

From: Deskins, Sherry
To: Gray, Wendy
Subject: heads up
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 9:05:43 AM

Wendy

In reference to our discussion this morning, you may want to inform your management about the switch to bottled water. It's possible they could get inquiries from Congressional Staff.

Thanks and please let me know if you have questions

Sherry

Sherry Deskins
Environmental Division

Phone 202.226.6272
Cell 202.302.2164
cdeskings@aoc.gov

Architect of the Capitol
Environmental Division
AOC Safety, Fire, and Environmental Programs
Ford House Office Building, Room H2-555
Washington, DC 20515
www.aoc.gov

From: [Gray, Wendy](#)
To: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
Cc: [Wisniewski, Patti-Kay](#)
Subject: Drinking Water Advisory language
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 4:20:00 PM

Received Drinking Water Advisory language with 2 attachments.
Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review and provide comment.
Comments will be forwarded via separate correspondence.

Wendy Gray, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
US EPA Region III
Drinking Water Branch
1650 Arch Street (3WP21)
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Office: (215) 814-5673
Cell: (267) 216-6521
Fax: (215) 814-2302
Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

From: Deskins, Sherry [<mailto:cdeskings@aoc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 3:23 PM
To: Gray, Wendy <Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: heads up

Here you go

Still working on bulletin

From: Gray, Wendy [<mailto:Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 9:30 AM
To: Deskins, Sherry <cdeskings@aoc.gov>
Subject: RE: heads up

Sherry,
Please send the communication materials used for your Do Not Drink Advisory as soon as possible.
As we had discussed, EPA is available to support your efforts to communicate, identify and resolve this issue.

My management has been notified, and I am in the process of confirming that our Congressional Liaison has also been notified.
Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

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Cell: (267) 216-6521
Fax: (215) 814-2302
Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

From: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
To: [Gray, Wendy](#)
Subject: FW: Cannon Drinking Water Alert
Date: Thursday, June 30, 2016 10:08:34 PM
Attachments: [Drinking Water FAQ June 30 2016.pdf](#)
[Lead-in-Water with Graphic 6.30.pdf](#)

Wendy

Just wanted to provide you a couple other updates.

The attached documents went out today.

As far as how communications are getting out:

They are going out electronically to all AOC staff, House net (intranet for House), Senate Oversight has received copies, hard copies are being hand carried to offices, and there are 3 House briefings tomorrow.

Thanks and please let me know if you have questions

Sherry

Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions

June 30, 2016



****UPDATED INFORMATION****

How do I know if I have been exposed to unhealthy levels of lead?

Blood can be sampled and tested for exposure to lead.

Will the Architect of the Capitol test my blood?

The AOC is working diligently on options to provide testing or testing reimbursements and expects to inform the Cannon Building occupants in the next few days.

What can I do to minimize my potential exposure to lead in drinking water?

Please see that attached Bulletin for information to help you reduce your risk of exposure to lead in drinking water.

What is lead?

Lead is a soft, blue-gray metal that is mined from the earth. Lead has been used for many industrial purposes for centuries. It was widely used in paint and gasoline in the U.S. until the 1970's. Lead does not break down over time. Lead is present in all parts of the environment, including inside homes.

How are people exposed to lead?

Unless you have an occupation that requires an exposure to lead, most people are exposed through lead-contaminated household dust or soil. Homes that were built before 1978 are likely to have paint that contains lead. If this paint is disturbed, rubbed, peels or chips, then people may come in contact with lead.

Some people may be exposed to lead through working with or near lead. Other routes of exposure might include:

- Eating or drinking water, food, or alcohol that contains lead.
- Using ceramic or other pottery that contains lead.
- Practicing religious and cultural rituals that include lead.
- Mouthing or swallowing other lead-containing products, including some imported jewelry.

Why was the water turned off to my water filtration unit?

The AOC does not have documentation on office-provided water filtration units to determine if the filters are certified to meet National Sanitation Foundation Standard 53 and routinely replaced as recommended by EPA. Therefore, in an abundance of caution, all have been turned off. All filtration devices attached to the building water supply should not be used for drinking. The AOC will be arranging for all water filtration devices to be tested in the near future.

=====

Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions

June 30, 2016



INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED

What is the cause of the elevated lead levels in the Cannon House Office Building?

The Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is investigating the elevated lead levels to determine the cause. Updates will be provided as additional information is available.

How long have we known about elevated levels?

The most recent results, received the week of June 27, 2016, indicate lead levels in primary drinking water sources (e.g., drinking fountains) are slightly above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard.

When were results received and what were they?

During the week of June 20, 2016, 26 primary drinking water source samples were drawn. On the afternoon of Monday, June 27, 2016, AOC received notification that three (3) primary drinking water source (drinking fountains) results exceeded 15 parts per billion (ppb). On the mornings of June 28, 2016 and June 29, 2016, AOC received additional elevated primary drinking water source results. Five (5) of 26 primary drinking water source samples were elevated. The specific results of the five (5) elevated tests were 17 ppb, 18 ppb, 20 ppb, 25 ppb and 56 ppb.

What is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard that lead-in-drinking water is compared against?

The EPA standard that is applicable to the Cannon House Building drinking water system is for 90 percent of samples in a six-month period (Jan-Jun and Jul-Dec) to be below 15 ppb.

How often does AOC sample primary source drinking water? When was the last sampling and what were the results?

Cannon Building primary drinking water sources have been sampled annually since 2005. Sampling was last conducted in September 2015, during which the highest result was 9.12 ppb, below the EPA standard.

What sampling has been performed historically?

Over the last 11 years (2005-2015), the AOC analyzed 363 Cannon Building primary drinking water source samples. Prior to this week, all samples were below 15 ppb with the exception of four: 1 in 2006 (41.8 ppb), one in 2008 (33.3 ppb), and two in 2012 (19.9 and 28 ppb).

How do we know this is isolated to Cannon?

Since 2005, overall and campus-wide, the results have been acceptable, below criteria established by the EPA and indicate there has not been a lead-in-drinking water concern. On rare occasions, sampling indicates the need to temporarily remove a drinking fountain or sink from service and perform corrective maintenance. In those cases, the device is repaired or replaced, retested and then returned to service only after acceptable results are achieved.

Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions

June 30, 2016



Has anyone reported symptoms/sickness?

There are no current reports of sickness or symptoms linked to the Cannon Building.

Are there any precautions I need to take? What if I'm a nursing mother/pregnant?

There is no reason to believe that the elevated levels pose an immediate threat to building occupants and visitors. Consult with your physician for individual health care decisions.

Any impacts beyond drinking water (washing dishes, washing hands, washing mugs/coffee pots, brushing teeth)?

No, all of these activities can continue as water is not being ingested.

Is the water provided by DC Water the issue?

No. Some plumbing fixtures in the building are indicating elevated levels. This situation is limited to the Cannon Building and is not stemming from water servicelines maintained by DC Water. AOC is investigating to determine the root cause.

What is being done to correct the Cannon Building situation and when will it be resolved?

In an abundance of caution, all Cannon drinking water sources and office-provided water filtration units were turned off the evening of June 28, 2016. Kitchen, bathroom and restroom sinks remain available for non-drinking use. Bottled water is being provided for all CHOB occupants beginning June 29, 2016. AOC is investigating to determine the source of the elevated lead and will provide updates as additional information is available.

What do you mean by the terms "maintenance actions" or "appropriate actions"?

Maintenance actions include cleaning screens, commonly referred to as aerators, that are in fixtures and flushing of the plumbing system (i.e. running water through it to flush out particles that may be in the water lines). If maintenance actions do not resolve the issue, a more detailed engineering evaluation may be required that could result in fixture replacement.

Who may I speak to about other questions?

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has more information about lead in water at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm. And DC Water talks about understanding lead and water on its website at www.dewater.com/lead. You can also contact the AOC Superintendent's office for more information.

Lead-in-Drinking Water Bulletin

June 2016



The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) implemented an extensive lead-in-drinking water sampling program in AOC-managed facilities in the mid-2000's, evaluating both primary sources (drinking fountains, water filtration units, kitchen sinks, beverage dispensers) and secondary sources (restroom/hand/utility sinks, etc.). Since 2005, overall and campus-wide, the results have been below criteria established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and indicate there has not been a lead-in-drinking water concern. On rare occasions, sampling indicates the need to temporarily remove a water source from service and perform maintenance. In those cases, the device is repaired or replaced, retested and then returned to service only after acceptable results are achieved. Recently elevated results were found in the Cannon House Office Building (CHOB). This situation is limited to the CHOB.

Whether at work or home, lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. EPA has established a maximum contaminant level goal¹ for lead at zero. Please read the following information from the EPA closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water – regardless of location.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered Intelligence quotient (IQ) in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

For More Information

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Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water at Home

FLUSH YOUR TAP

Let the water run 15-30 seconds from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for several hours.



USE ONLY COLD WATER FOR COOKING AND DRINKING
Lead dissolves more easily into hot water.

DO NOT BOIL WATER TO REMOVE LEAD
Boiling water will not reduce lead.



DO NOT CONSUME WATER FROM RESTROOM FIXTURES
Standards restricting the amount of lead from plumbing components have only been in place since 1996.

USE FILTERED TAP WATER

Use filters certified to meet National Sanitation Foundation Standard 53 and routinely replace.



USE BOTTLED WATER

The steps above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if you are still concerned, you may wish to use bottled water for drinking and cooking.

¹ maximum level at which no known or anticipated adverse effect on health would occur

From: Deskins, Sherry
To: Gray, Wendy
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Architect of the Capitol
Date: Friday, July 01, 2016 4:41:44 PM
Attachments: 2016.07.01 Lieu Lead in Cannon Letter.pdf

Wendy

Wanted you to have a copy of this since EPA was copied.

Sherry

Sherry Deskins
Environmental Division

Phone 202.226.6272
Cell 202.302.2164
cdeskins@aoc.gov

Architect of the Capitol
Environmental Division
AOC Safety, Fire, and Environmental Programs
Ford House Office Building, Room H2-555
Washington, DC 20515
www.aoc.gov

Begin forwarded message:

>

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0533

415 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3976

5055 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 310
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036
(310) 652-3095

1600 ROSECRANS AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266
(310) 321-7664

July 1, 2016

The Honorable Stephen Ayers
Architect of the Capitol
Senate Basement 16
Washington, DC 20515

William M. Weidemeyer
Superintendent, House Office Buildings
Rayburn B341
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Ayers and Mr. Weidemeyer,

I am writing in regards to your June 28 announcement that lead levels in the drinking water in the Cannon House Office Building are above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) safe drinking water standards. As you know, the EPA safe standard for lead in water is 15 ppb, and some of the water in Cannon measured lead levels over three times the legal limit. My constituents, staff, and I have been potentially exposed to lead poisoning, as well as the constituents, staff, and members of Congress in the dozens of other offices in the Cannon building.

The Dear Colleague your office released on June 28 was vague and provided very little details for our understandably anxious constituents, staff, and members of Congress who have all been frequent consumers of water from the Cannon building. My staff actually contacted the water filter company for our office, and they informed us that the filter *does not protect against any level of lead*. The updated fact sheet your office released on June 29 indicated the water had not been tested since September 2015. The fact sheet also stated that five of 26 primary drinking water sources have elevated lead contents, and that all the drinking fountains have been turned off.

I understand a briefing will be held tomorrow on the lead contamination, a full three days after the initial announcement, which is coming rather late for anxious staff, worried about lead poisoning. Due to the lack of transparency and information to relieve our worried constituents and staff, I respectfully request that your office answers the following questions:

- Which drinking water fountains in Cannon have been found to have elevated lead poisoning?
- Why has the water in Cannon not been tested for lead since September?
- Who is in charge of testing the water?
- Will you be providing lead poisoning tests for everyone in the Cannon House Office Building who has potentially been exposed?
- You said that the drinking water stations had been turned off, however, the drinking water is still running in my office. When will you shut this off?

- The signs placed on the water fountains and in the bathroom simply say “Do Not Drink the Water.” The signs do not, however, say that this is due to lead poisoning, potentially leading to confusion and risk for visiting constituents. Will you update the signs to provide information about the lead poisoning?
- The signs do not say there is any risk in washing our hands in the bathroom. What if someone has a cut or open wound? Will you provide more details about what is safe and not safe in regards to the lead tainted water?
- Are other House and Senate office buildings at risk?
- Will Cannon consider replacing all of its lead pipes?
- When will this be resolved?

Thank you for your time, and my constituents, staff, and I would appreciate a prompt response. Please contact my staffer, Megan Price, with any questions or further correspondence at megan.price@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ted W. Lieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

cc:

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

From: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
To: [Gray, Wendy](#)
Subject: FW: Cannon Drinking Water Alert
Date: Saturday, July 02, 2016 2:25:45 PM
Attachments: [Drinking Water FAQ June 30 2016.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[Lead-in-Water with Graphic 6.30.pdf](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)

Just wanted to make sure you saw the bulletin

Wendy

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Thanks and please let me know if you have questions

Sherry

Lead-in-Drinking Water Bulletin

June 2016



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The steps above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if you are still concerned, you may wish to use bottled water for drinking and cooking.

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From: [Gray, Wendy](#)
To: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
Cc: [Crumlish, Karen](#)
Subject: Lead Monitoring Results
Date: Thursday, June 30, 2016 8:07:00 AM

Sherry,

We noticed that the revised bulletin included lead monitoring results which as described seem to show that recent results have been elevated. If you would like our assistance with reviewing and interpreting the results, and or trying to locate the source of the issue, please provide the monitoring results so that we may assist.

Thanks!

Wendy Gray, P.E.
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Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

From: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
To: [Gray, Wendy](#)
Cc: [Gayne, Andrew F.](#)
Subject: FW: Updated FAQ - PLEASE REVIEW
Date: Wednesday, July 06, 2016 12:53:26 PM
Attachments: [Drinking Water FAQ July 6 2016.docx](#)

Wendy

Updated FAQs

Sherry

Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions

July 6, 2016



****UPDATED INFORMATION****

What is the difference between a primary and secondary drinking water source?

A primary drinking water source is one where you are likely to obtain water for drinking. This includes drinking fountains and kitchen sinks. A secondary water source would include restroom sinks and utility sinks.

What is the difference between a drinking fountain and a water filtration device?

Drinking fountains are provided by the AOC and are found in hallways. Water filtration devices are provided by and located in individual offices. Water filtration devices are connected to the building water supply.

Where were the 5 elevated samples in the Cannon House Office Building located?

In June, 2016, 26 hallway drinking fountains throughout the building were sampled and tested. The locations of the 5 elevated samples are:

- 1st floor east side, across from 121 (25 ppb),
- 2nd floor north side (Independence Ave), west end of corridor (56 ppb)
- 4th floor, south side, east end of corridor (17 ppb)
- 5th floor north side next to 5J (20 ppb)
- Basement west corridor near public restrooms (18 ppb)

Are these levels high enough to cause health problems?

While there is no reason to believe that these elevated levels pose an immediate threat to building occupants and visitors, you should consult with your physician for individual health care questions and decisions.

Will the Architect of the Capitol test my blood?

Starting July 6, 2016, blood lead level testing will be available to House Members and Staff, with a valid congressional badge, at no cost to the individual or office. Testing will take place in the Office of Attending Physician's Rayburn Unit (B-344). Results will be provided directly to and confidentially with the individuals who elect to be tested.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, please reach out to the Office of the Attending Physician's Occupational Health Division at 202-225-0611. All other questions or comments related to the lead-in-water issue can be sent to communications@aoc.gov.

Is the Cannon Renewal the cause of the elevated levels?

We do not have sufficient data to make a determination at this time. Once we have identified the cause of the elevated levels we will provide this information.

Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions

July 6, 2010



I understand that the AOC is conducting additional testing. What is being done and will test results be shared?

Out of an abundance of caution, AOC is proceeding at an accelerated pace with our annual sampling plan for all House Office Buildings, the Capitol and the Capitol Visitor Center. In accordance with our annual testing protocols, all water sources in the House Child Care Center and twenty percent of primary devices and two percent of secondary devices will be tested in each building. In addition, we will undertake testing of the water filtration units in the Cannon Building. The AOC will share the results of the tests with the congressional community.

Will you provide a timeline/schedule for upcoming additional tests?

Upcoming testing will occur as follows. It will take two to three weeks to obtain results and we will provide test results when available:

- Rayburn was sampled July 1
- Longworth, Ford and East and West House Underground Garages sampling is scheduled for July 6
- Water filtration device sampling in Cannon is scheduled for July 7

Is the water in other buildings safe to drink while testing is pending?

Based on historical data we have gathered since 2005, there is no reason to believe that the other buildings have similar issues. Our upcoming testing will confirm if similar precautionary steps are necessary elsewhere.

How many samples are in a normal test? When was the last time my office was tested?

AOC samples 20 percent of primary water sources and 2 percent of secondary water sources in each building each year. In addition, all water sources in childcare facilities are tested annually. For office-specific information please contact communications@aoc.gov.

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INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED

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Who decided to shut off water?

The health and safety of the congressional community is the first responsibility for the Architect of the Capitol. When we started receiving elevated lead test results from Cannon House Office Building drinking fountains, the AOC made the independent, proactive decision to shut off the water.

What is the cause of the elevated lead levels in the Cannon House Office Building?

The Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is investigating the elevated lead levels to determine the cause. Updates will be provided as additional information is available.

How long have we known about elevated levels?

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Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions

July 6, 2016



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July 6, 2016



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Who may I speak to about other questions?

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s website at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has more information about lead in water at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm. And DC Water talks about understanding lead and water on its website at www.dewater.com/lead. The AOC will be issuing regular updates and providing many opportunities to meet face to face with our experts. You can send questions or comments to communications@aoc.gov.

From: [Gray, Wendy](#)
To: cdeskings@aoc.gov
Subject: Re: Call me
Date: Thursday, June 30, 2016 8:42:40 AM

Thanks for context. I'll jump out of my 9:00 upon receipt of your call

Wendy Gray, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
US EPA Region III
Drinking Water Branch
1650 Arch Street (3WP21)
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Office: (215) 814-5673
Cell: (267) 216-6521
Fax: (215) 814-2302
Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

> On Jun 30, 2016, at 8:30 AM, Deskins, Sherry <cdeskings@aoc.gov> wrote:
>
> On a conference call and then I have another call at 930. Will call as soon as I can
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Gray, Wendy [<mailto:Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>]
> Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 8:30 AM
> To: Deskins, Sherry <cdeskings@aoc.gov>
> Subject: Call me
>
> If you get a chance
>
> Wendy Gray, P.E.
> Environmental Engineer
> US EPA Region III
> Drinking Water Branch
> 1650 Arch Street (3WP21)
> Philadelphia, PA 19103
> Office: (215) 814-5673
> Cell: (267) 216-6521
> Fax: (215) 814-2302
> Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

From: [Gray, Wendy](#)
To: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
Subject: RE: heads up
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 9:28:00 AM

Sherry,

Please send the communication materials used for your Do Not Drink Advisory as soon as possible. As we had discussed, EPA is available to support your efforts to communicate, identify and resolve this issue.

My management has been notified, and I am in the process of confirming that our Congressional Liaison has also been notified.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

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Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

From: Deskins, Sherry [<mailto:cdeskins@aoc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 9:06 AM
To: Gray, Wendy <Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>
Subject: heads up

Wendy

In reference to our discussion this morning, you may want to inform your management about the switch to bottled water. It's possible they could get inquiries from Congressional Staff.

Thanks and please let me know if you have questions

Sherry

Sherry Deskins
Environmental Division

Phone 202.226.6272
Cell 202.302.2164

cdeskins@aoe.gov

Architect of the Capitol

Environmental Division

AOE Safety, Fire, and Environmental Programs

Ford House Office Building, Room H2-555

Washington, DC 20515

www.aoe.gov

From: Gray, Wendy
To: cdeskings@aoc.gov
Subject: Re: heads up
Date: Thursday, June 30, 2016 7:49:42 AM

Sherry,
Can you let me know if this has been provided to consumers yet?

Please also describe the means of issuance of this and the first advisory.

Comments on both advisories will be forthcoming.
Thanks.

Wendy Gray, P.E.
Environmental Engineer
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Fax: (215) 814-2302
Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

On Jun 30, 2016, at 6:17 AM, Deskins, Sherry <cdeskings@aoc.gov> wrote:

Updated FAQs

From: Deskins, Sherry
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 3:23 PM
To: 'Gray, Wendy' <Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: heads up

Here you go

Still working on bulletin

From: Gray, Wendy [<mailto:Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 9:30 AM
To: Deskins, Sherry <cdeskings@aoc.gov>
Subject: RE: heads up

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Environmental Division
AOC Safety, Fire, and Environmental Programs
Ford House Office Building, Room H2-555
Washington, DC 20515
www.aoc.gov

<Drinking Water FAQ June 29 2016 .docx>

From: [Gray, Wendy](#)
To: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
Cc: [Gayne, Andrew F.](#)
Subject: RE: public notification language
Date: Thursday, July 07, 2016 8:57:00 AM

I have meetings most of the morning, but they may end short so If I call it would be at about quarter of (heading out of my 9, 10 and 11 o'clock meetings). Can I call you at my first free moment?

Thanks

Wendy

From: Deskins, Sherry [mailto:cdeskins@aoc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2016 7:11 AM
To: Gray, Wendy <Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>
Cc: Gayne, Andrew F. <agayne@aoc.gov>
Subject: public notification language

Do you have a few minutes this morning to discuss required changes to some of our language?

Let me know and I will call you.

Sherry Deskins
Environmental Division

Phone 202.226.6272
Cell 202.302.2164
cdeskins@aoc.gov

Architect of the Capitol
Environmental Division
AOC Safety, Fire, and Environmental Programs
Ford House Office Building, Room H2-555
Washington, DC 20515
www.aoc.gov

From: Deskins, Sherry
To: Gray, Wendy
Cc: Gayne, Andrew F.
Subject: public notification language
Date: Thursday, July 07, 2016 7:10:49 AM

Do you have a few minutes this morning to discuss required changes to some of our language?

Let me know and I will call you.

Sherry Deskins
Environmental Division

Phone 202.226.6272
Cell 202.302.2164
cdeskins@aoc.gov

Architect of the Capitol
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Ford House Office Building, Room H2-555
Washington, DC 20515
www.aoc.gov

From: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
To: [Gray, Wendy](#)
Subject: RE: Call me
Date: Thursday, June 30, 2016 8:30:18 AM

On a conference call and then I have another call at 930. Will call as soon as I can

-----Original Message-----

From: Gray, Wendy [<mailto:Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 8:30 AM
To: Deskins, Sherry <cdeskings@aoc.gov>
Subject: Call me

If you get a chance

Wendy Gray, P.E.
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Cell: (267) 216-6521
Fax: (215) 814-2302
Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

From: Deskins, Sherry
To: Gray, Wendy
Subject: RE: Drinking Water Advisory language
Date: Thursday, June 30, 2016 8:06:19 AM

Thanks. I think the bulletin, which has not come out yet, will provide more details

More to come....

From: Gray, Wendy [mailto:Gray.Wendy@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 8:05 AM
To: Deskins, Sherry <cdeskins@aoc.gov>
Cc: Wisniewski, Patti-Kay <Wisniewski.Patti-Kay@epa.gov>; Crumlish, Karen <Crumlish.Karen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Drinking Water Advisory language

Sherry,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review and provide comment on the Drinking Water Advisory Communication materials (Dear Colleague letter and Revised Frequently Asked Question Bulletin).

The following elements of a public notice were not included and are recommended to be included the drinking water advisory communication materials:

- Potential health effects, including any standard language provided in the public notice rule "Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure."
- Actions consumers should take. Such as "Do not use cold, hot or boiled water for:
 - Drinking
 - Making coffee
 - Preparing and cooking food
 - Washing fruits and vegetables
 - Making ice"
- When the water system expects to return to compliance or resolve the situation.
- Mandatory language statement encouraging the recipient to share the notice with other persons served using standard language. "Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail." The underlined language can be replaced with "visitors, or contractors" or language appropriate to the building.

If you have any questions regarding these comment, or if you need additional assistance, please let me know.

Thanks!

Wendy Gray, P.E.
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Drinking Water Branch

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Fax: (215) 814-2302
Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

From: Gray, Wendy
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 4:21 PM
To: 'Deskins, Sherry' <cdeskings@aoc.gov>
Cc: Wisniewski, Patti-Kay <Wisniewski.Patti-Kay@epa.gov>
Subject: Drinking Water Advisory language

Received Drinking Water Advisory language with 2 attachments.
Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review and provide comment.
Comments will be forwarded via separate correspondence.

Wendy Gray, P.E.
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US EPA Region III
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From: Deskins, Sherry [<mailto:cdeskings@aoc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 3:23 PM
To: Gray, Wendy <Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: heads up

Here you go

Still working on bulletin

From: Gray, Wendy [<mailto:Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 9:30 AM
To: Deskins, Sherry <cdeskings@aoc.gov>
Subject: RE: heads up

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Please send the communication materials used for your Do Not Drink Advisory as soon as possible. As we had discussed, EPA is available to support your efforts to communicate, identify and resolve this issue.

My management has been notified, and I am in the process of confirming that our Congressional Liaison has also been notified.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

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Gray.Wendy@EPA.gov

From: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
To: [Gray, Wendy](#)
Subject: RE: heads up
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 3:23:29 PM
Attachments: [Drinking Water FAQ June 28 2016 \(002\).docx](#)
[Dear Colleague CHOB Lead \(002\).pdf](#)

Here you go

Still working on bulletin

From: Gray, Wendy [<mailto:Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 9:30 AM
To: Deskins, Sherry <cdeskings@aoc.gov>
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From: Deskins, Sherry [<mailto:cdeskings@aoc.gov>]
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To: Gray, Wendy <Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>
Subject: heads up

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switch to bottled water. It's possible they could get inquiries from Congressional Staff.

Thanks and please let me know if you have questions

Sherry

Sherry Deskins

Environmental Division

Phone 202.226.6272

Cell 202.302.2164

cdeskings@aoe.gov

Architect of the Capitol

Environmental Division

AOE Safety, Fire, and Environmental Programs

Ford House Office Building, Room H2-555

Washington, DC 20515

www.aoe.gov



AOC House Office Buildings
Rayburn House Office Building, Room B341
Washington, DC 20515
202.225.4142
www.aoc.gov

June 28, 2016

Dear Colleague:

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) implemented an extensive lead-in-drinking water sampling program in AOC-managed facilities in the mid-2000's, evaluating both primary water sources (drinking fountains, water filtration units, kitchen sinks, beverage dispensers) and secondary water sources (restroom/hand/utility sinks, etc.).

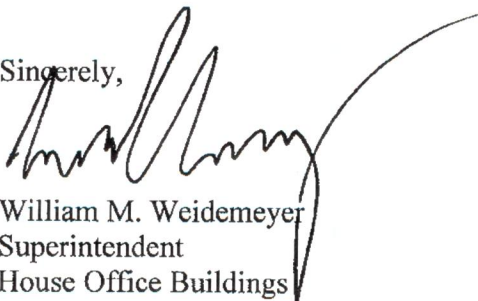
Since 2005, overall and campus-wide, the results have been below criteria established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and indicate there has not been a lead-in-drinking water concern. On rare occasions, sampling indicates the need to temporarily remove a water source from service and perform maintenance. In those cases, the device is repaired or replaced, retested and then returned to service only after acceptable results are achieved.

This week, the AOC received results within the Cannon House Office Building that indicate lead levels in drinking water sources are slightly above the EPA standard. Although the cause of the increase remains under investigation, in an abundance of caution all drinking water sources and office-provided water filtration units in the building will be turned off beginning at 10:00 PM, Tuesday, June 28, 2016. Building operations will not be impacted. Restrooms and kitchen sinks will be available for non-drinking use. Bottled water will be available throughout the building beginning at 12:00 PM, Wednesday, June 29, 2016. This situation only impacts the Cannon building.

We are committed to working with you as we resolve the issue. For questions or to report specific concerns, please feel free to contact the House Superintendent's Office at 202.225.4141.

We regret this inconvenience and appreciate your continued support as we strive to maintain and improve our facilities. The AOC considers the health and safety of the congressional community to be of utmost priority.

Sincerely,



William M. Weidemeyer
Superintendent
House Office Buildings

Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions



June, 2016

What is the cause of the elevated lead levels in the Cannon House Office Building (CHOB)?

The Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is investigating the elevated lead levels to determine the cause. Updates will be provided as additional information is available.

How long have we known about elevated levels?

The most recent results, received the week of June 27, 2016, indicate lead levels in primary drinking water sources (e.g., drinking fountains) are slightly above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard.

How do we know this is isolated to Cannon?

Since 2005, overall and campus-wide, the results have been acceptable, below criteria established by the EPA and indicate there has not been a lead-in-drinking water concern. On rare occasions, sampling indicates the need to temporarily remove a drinking fountain or sink from service and perform corrective maintenance. In those cases, the device is repaired or replaced, retested and then returned to service only after acceptable results are achieved.

Has anyone reported symptoms/sickness?

There are no current reports of sickness or symptoms linked to the CHOB.

Are there any precautions I need to take? What if I'm a nursing mother/pregnant?

There is no reason to believe that the elevated levels pose an immediate threat to building occupants and visitors. Please refer to the lead-in-drinking water bulletin for suggested precautionary measures. Consult with your physician for individual health care decisions.

Any impacts beyond drinking water (washing dishes, washing hands, washing mugs/coffee pots, brushing teeth)?

No, all of these activities can continue as water is not being ingested.

Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions



Is the water provided by DC Water the issue?

No. Some plumbing fixtures in the building are indicating elevated levels. This situation is limited to the Cannon Building and is not stemming from water service lines maintained by DC Water. AOC is investigating to determine the root cause.

What is being done to correct the Cannon Building situation and when will it be resolved?

In an abundance of caution, all Cannon drinking water sources and office-provided water filtration units were turned off the evening of June 28, 2016. Kitchen, bathroom and restroom sinks remain available for non-drinking use. Bottled water is being provided for all CHOB occupants beginning June 29, 2016. AOC is investigating to determine the source of the elevated lead and will provide updates as additional information is available.

What do you mean by the terms “maintenance actions” or “appropriate actions”?

Maintenance actions include cleaning screens, commonly referred to as aerators, that are in fixtures and flushing of the plumbing system (i.e. running water through it to flush out particles that may be in the water lines). If maintenance actions do not resolve the issue, a more detailed engineering evaluation may be required that could result in fixture replacement.

Who may I speak to about other questions?

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA’s website at www.epa.gov/lead, or contact your health care provider. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has more information about lead in water at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm. And DC Water talks about understanding lead and water on its website at www.dewater.com/lead. You can also contact the AOC Superintendent’s office for more information.

From: Deskins, Sherry
To: Gray, Wendy
Subject: RE: heads up
Date: Thursday, June 30, 2016 6:17:27 AM
Attachments: Drinking Water FAQ June 29 2016 .docx

Updated FAQs

From: Deskins, Sherry
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 3:23 PM
To: 'Gray, Wendy' <Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: heads up

Here you go

Still working on bulletin

From: Gray, Wendy [<mailto:Gray.Wendy@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 9:30 AM
To: Deskins, Sherry <cdeskings@aoc.gov>
Subject: RE: heads up

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Ford House Office Building, Room H2-555
Washington, DC 20515
www.aoc.gov

Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions



June 29, 2016

What is the cause of the elevated lead levels in the Cannon House Office Building?

The Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is investigating the elevated lead levels to determine the cause. Updates will be provided as additional information is available.

How long have we known about elevated levels?

The most recent results, received the week of June 27, 2016, indicate lead levels in primary drinking water sources (e.g., drinking fountains) are slightly above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard.

When were results received and what were they?

During the week of June 20, 2016, 26 primary drinking water source samples were drawn. On the afternoon of Monday, June 27, 2016, AOC received notification that three (3) primary drinking water source (drinking fountains) results exceeded 15 parts per billion (ppb). On the mornings of June 28, 2016 and June 29, 2016, AOC received additional elevated primary drinking water source results. Five (5) of 26 primary drinking water source samples were elevated. The specific results of the five (5) elevated tests were 17 ppb, 18 ppb, 20 ppb, 25 ppb and 56 ppb.

What is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard that lead-in-drinking water is compared against?

The EPA standard that is applicable to the Cannon House Building drinking water system is for 90 percent of samples in a six-month period (Jan- Jun and Jul-Dec) to be below 15 ppb.

How often does AOC sample primary source drinking water? When was the last sampling and what were the results?

Cannon Building primary drinking water sources have been sampled annually since 2005. Sampling was last conducted in September 2015, during which the highest result was 9.12 ppb, below the EPA standard.

Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions



What sampling has been performed historically?

Over the last 11 years (2005-2015), the AOC analyzed 363 Cannon Building primary drinking water source samples. Prior to this week, all samples were below 15 ppb with the exception of four: 1 in 2006 (41.8ppb), one in 2008 (33.3 ppb), and two in 2012 (19.9 and 28 ppb).

How do we know this is isolated to Cannon?

Since 2005, overall and campus-wide, the results have been acceptable, below criteria established by the EPA and indicate there has not been a lead-in-drinking water concern. On rare occasions, sampling indicates the need to temporarily remove a drinking fountain or sink from service and perform corrective maintenance. In those cases, the device is repaired or replaced, retested and then returned to service only after acceptable results are achieved.

Has anyone reported symptoms/sickness?

There are no current reports of sickness or symptoms linked to the Cannon Building.

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Lead in Drinking Water

Frequently Asked Questions



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Updated from version released on June 28, 2016

From: [Deskins, Sherry](#)
To: [Gray, Wendy](#)
Cc: [Gayne, Andrew F.](#)
Subject: RE: public notification language
Date: Thursday, July 07, 2016 9:04:44 AM

Sure, thanks

From: Gray, Wendy [mailto:Gray.Wendy@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2016 8:57 AM
To: Deskins, Sherry <cdeskins@aoc.gov>
Cc: Gayne, Andrew F. <agayne@aoc.gov>
Subject: RE: public notification language

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Cc: Gayne, Andrew F. <agayne@aoc.gov>
Subject: public notification language

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